



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	Thursday, 9 March 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Growth and Development
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Yes

SUBJECT: Local Transport Plan 2023/24 programme

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To seek the Executive Board's approval for the detailed Local Transport Plan programme for the financial year 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- 1) Approves the Local Transport Plan detailed programme for 2023/24
- 2) Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Environment and Operations, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to amend, seek and accept tenders subject to adequate budget provision.

Reasons for recommendations:

The proposed schemes and projects that form the 2023/24 programme are aimed at achieving our overall corporate priorities along with maintaining the highway network in the most cost efficient way based upon the Council's overall asset management strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council approved its Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) in April 2011 with the following goals, to:

- Support the economy
- Tackle climate change
- Increase safety and security
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote quality of life, health and the natural environment
- Promote the management of the Council's transport assets.

These goals are aligned to our overall corporate priorities as outlined below:

- A more prosperous borough where no one is left behind
- Every child and young person to have opportunities to fulfil their potential
- Deliver our climate emergency action plan
- Build happier, healthier and safer communities

The programme aims to provide a good, safe and resilient road network to support the travel of residents across the borough providing access to facilities and opportunities for all. The programme also promotes growth and development with section 106 monies being used to support highways improvement schemes to attract business development opportunities.

Maintaining a good road network also supports quality of life, health, safety and security by offering improvements to the built and natural environments encouraging the use of open spaces and active travel.

Reduction in carbon usage and environmental impact is to be achieved through design and seeking innovative solutions where possible with materials selected to reduce the impact of the proposed schemes. An action plan is currently in development to undertake a carbon benchmarking exercise to better inform choices and outcomes alongside current lifecycle planning

Consideration will be given to treatment options to reduce carbon usage wherever possible.

Funding:

On the 28th February 2022 the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed details of future Integrated Transport Block, Local Highways Maintenance Block, Pot Hole Funding and Incentive Funding stream allocations for 2022-2025.

The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) provides funding support to Local Authorities for transport capital improvement schemes worth less than £5 million. This funding is to be spent at the discretion of the local authority on small transport schemes.

The Highways Maintenance Block (HMB) provides funding to maintain highway assets including carriageways, footways, bridges, highway structures, drainage along with street lighting and traffic signal schemes.

The HMB incentive element represents additional funding to maintain highway assets secured by maintaining a band 3 status through the DfT's self-assessment questionnaire.

The Pothole funding allocation is part of 5 yearly instalments allocated to run alongside other funding streams between 2021/2025. The funding is to go towards ensuring potholes and other road maintenance issues are rectified.

The Council has also been successful in securing a number of Section 106 developer contributions to deliver Capital Highways improvement schemes.

The table below summarises the total amount of funding available:

	2023/24
DfT Integrated Transport Block (ITB)	£1,435,000
DfT Highways Maintenance Block (HMB)	£1,070,000
DfT Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund	£268,000
DfT Pothole Fund	£1,070,000
DfT Bus Service Improvement Fund	£2,013,188
17/0578 Section 106 Blackburn North Yew Tree Drive (Wainhomes)	£681,371
17/0211 Section 106 Gib Lane Phase C (Story Homes) - West Blackburn Highways Infrastructure	£117,862
18/0895 Section 106 Roe Lee (Persimmon Homes)	£150,000
20/0265 Section 106 106 Blackburn North, Ramsgreave Drive (McDermott Homes)	£130,000
20/1048 Former Westholme Nursery (Issa Foundation)	£69,000
16/1132 Section 106 Gib Lane Phase A (Kingswood Homes)	£221,000
16/0789 (17/1523) Section 106 Pole Lane North Darwen (Kier Living)	£140,000
21/0122 Section 106 Ellison Fold Way	£494,059
21/1294 Section 106 Land at Former Darwen Paper Mill	£89,230
21/1426 Section 106 Haslingden Road Residential Site	£350,000
21/0428 Section 106 Haslingden Road Commercial Site	£98,911
22/0722 Section 106 Whalley Old Road	£62,500
Total	£8,460,121

Any additional funds received from Section 106 or monies from third parties will be reported within the 6 monthly LTP update report to be published later in the financial year 2023/24.

Figures provided in the table above are indicative and are subject to possible variation based on DfT confirmation of allocations.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Scheme Selection

Proposed schemes have been informed by lifecycle planning factors developed as part of the authority's asset management strategy, where relevant schemes within the resilient network have been prioritised.

Proposals

This report details the allocation of available highway funding to deliver maintenance activities and improvement programmes on the public highway aligned with our asset management policy along with contributing to the councils overall corporate priorities.

Due to the responsive nature of the service to many variable and unknown outside factors the schemes and budgetary allowances presented cannot operate as fixed budgets but form the basis on our plan for the start of the 2023 financial year. Every effort will be made to adhere to these proposed schemes and budgets as planned. Further updates on progress and the delivery of schemes will be made and any emerging issues or pressures arising due to network demands which may call for changes or amendments to be made will be discussed.

Carry Forward

Given the nature of construction works it is inevitable that the progress of some schemes is delayed through issues such as detailed design periods and consultation, approvals being sought, land issues and the availability and escalating costs of materials. Consequently some schemes are not able to be progressed and delivered within the timescales initially envisaged. Such delays have led to an underspend on the 2022/23 programme and in particular to the local growth fund programme. This has resulted in a carry forward of this funding into the 2023/24 programme to allow for the completion of these existing projects and commitments.

The 2023/24 Capital Programme for Transport and Highways will be allocated as follows:

LTP Integrated Transport Block (ITB)

23/24 Allocation	£1,435,000
22/23 ITB Carry Forward	£1,484,933
Total	£2,919,933
Holden Fold / Moor Lane Junction Improvements and New Access	£400,000
Destination Darwen Public Realm Works	£500,000
Haslingden Road New Access & Widening (Dependent on Land Transfer)	£600,000
Stopes Brow / Roman Road Alterations (Demolition of 140 Roman Rd)	£150,000
Bog Height Road Link Road	£164,933
Growth Deal 3 - South East Blackburn - retention	£495,000
Highway Schemes Part 1 compensation claims	£150,000
On street Electric Vehicle Charging	£50,000
Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan	£100,000
Local Road Safety schemes	£135,000
LTP Project Management and development	£175,000

LTP Highways Capital Maintenance (HMB)

23/24 Allocation	£1,070,000
Total	£1,070,000
LTP carriageway improvements	
Surfacing Inlay - Hardman Way (Cochran Street), Darwen	£57,000
Surfacing Inlay - Lower Eccleshill Road	£38,000
Surface Overlay - Downham St (138-196)	£12,000
Surface Overlay - Broadhead Road (Long Hey to PROW)	£58,000
Capital Drainage	
Drainage - Harrison Street Junction, Blackburn	£30,000
UTC Capital Upgrades	£300,000
Traffic Control - Junction of Preston Old Rd & Witton Park - Detection Upgrade	
Traffic Control - Ewood Park - Detection Upgrade	
Traffic Control - Aqueduct Road - Detection and Lining Upgrade	
Emerging Priorities and Management	
Highways Bridges and Structures	
Grange Brook Retaining Wall - A675 Belmont	£290,000
Calf Hey Bridge Installation of Bollards	£5,000
General and Principal Bridge inspections	£80,000
Preston Street Culvert Assessment	£10,000
Emerging Priorities and Management	£90,000
Street Lighting	
LED replacement programme phase	£75,000

Street Lighting column repairs	£25,000
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LTP Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund

23/24 Allocation	£268,000
Surface Overlay - Haslingden Road	£67,000
Surface Overlay - Greens Arms Road (A666 to Bridge)	£201,000

LTP Pothole Fund

23/24 Allocation	£1,070,000
Targeting defect areas	£500,000
Surface Overlay - Billinge End Road	£65,000
Surface Overlay - Cemetery Road	£70,500
Emerging Priorities and Management	£86,000
Surface Inlay - Audley Range (Junction to QPR)	£98,500
Surface Inlay - Preston Old Road (Witton Park to Buncer Lane Junction)	£130,000
Surface Inlay - Preston Old Road (330 to Witton Park)	£120,000

DfT Bus Service Improvement Fund

23/24 Allocation	£2,013,188
Towns Moor Gyratory	£300,000
Accrington Road / Audley Range	£300,000
Bolton Road / Aqueduct Road	£85,000
Larkhill / Barbara Castle Way	£800,000
King Street / Montague Street	£60,000
Lower Audley Street / Bennington Street	£120,000
Yew Tree Drive / Lammack Road	£40,000
Audley Range / Queens Park Road	£90,000
St Paul's / Montague Street	£35,000
New bus stops and upgrades supporting local bus network enhancements	£183,188

Additional Project Delivery

17/0578 Section 106 Blackburn North Yew Tree Drive (Wainhomes)	£681,371
17/0211 Section 106 Gib Lane Phase C (Story Homes) - West Blackburn Highways Infrastructure	£117,862
18/0895 Section 106 Roe Lee (Persimmon Homes)	£150,000
20/0265 Section 106 106 Blackburn North, Ramsgreave Drive (McDermott Homes)	£130,000
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21/1426 Section 106 Haslingden Road Residential Site	£350,000
21/0428 Section 106 Haslingden Road Commercial Site	£98,911
22/0722 Section 106 Whalley Old Road	£62,500
Total	£2,603,933

Capital Maintenance Reserve Schemes

Surface Overlay - Enoch Brow	£95,000
Surface Inlay - Bolton Road (174 to Turton Bottoms Bridge), Edgworth	£110,000
Surface Overlay - Amber Avenue, Blackburn	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Beryl Avenue, Blackburn	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Pearl Street, Blackburn	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Alderman Arthur Townsend Way, Blackburn	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Heys Lane, Darwen	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Dove Lane Darwen	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Harwood Street, Darwen	£30,000
Surface Overlay - Vale Street, Darwen	£30,000
Surface Inlay - Inverness Road/Borough Road Junction, Darwen	£25,000
Total	£470,000

Any changes to the approved 2023/24 programme will be reported via the Council's Executive Member for Growth and Development later in 2023. Changes to the LTP programme as detailed within this report will be resourced from within the programme, and as such there will be no additional impact on Council finances. The equality impacts of each project are considered and assessed at the scheme design stage.

In relation to schemes funded from Section 106 and developer contributions, scheme design and delivery will only commence once monies have been received.

The Council is currently developing the next Local Transport Plan (LTP4) strategy covering the period from 2023-2042. Accompanying the strategy will be an implementation plan containing Blackburn with Darwen's provisional capital programme and transport projects from 2024/25 to 2026/27.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

All schemes proposed directly accord with the Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy.

Climate Emergency Action Plan: The proposed LTP programme will have a negative effect on carbon usage which is currently difficult to quantify. This impact is inevitable given the construction activities and materials required to maintain our existing infrastructure this is also recognised as an industry wide challenge. Whilst there will be an impact from construction activities, carbon usage will be kept to a minimum through design and material choices. An action plan is being developed alongside the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan 2023/24 to undertake a data gathering exercise to understand our current carbon usage and inform our choices for next year's programme. New and innovative solutions along with technological advancements are being sought and investigated alongside other highway authorities working collaboratively on solutions through the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding sources are identified within section 3 of this report. The programme will be closely monitored to ensure full spend and any further variations or amendments will be reported via the Executive Member for Growth and Development.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a statutory duty under Sections 108 and 109 of the Transport Act 2000 ("the Act") (as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008) as local transport authority to ensure that the Council has up to date policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within their area. Each local transport authority must prepare a document to be known as the local transport plan ("LTP") containing its policies for the purposes above and its proposals for the implementation of those policies.

All schemes within the programme will be designed and implemented in accordance with relevant highway, transport, traffic and equality legislation; and will need to be procured in accordance with the Council's constitution, procurement law and; where relevant, European directives; and any grant conditions.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All professional fees will be met from allocations detailed, and staff time met from existing resources. External contractors will be procured to deliver schemes that cannot be delivered by internal resources. Procurement will be in line with current best practices identified by HMEP standards.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

All schemes will be the subject of detailed individual consultations with the emergency services, stakeholders and the wider community.

The proposed works have been informed by the options expressed in the most recent National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey. Residents and stakeholders will be informed prior to the start of the proposed works in respect to the nature of the scheme and their anticipated duration. This will be communicated via the Council's website, social media channels, leaflets and letters as appropriate. Customer feedback will be actively sought on completion of each scheme, with feedback analysed and used to improve the service in the future.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The

recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Martin Eden, Mark Berry
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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